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AUSTRIAN NOTE TO BIG FOUR REQUESTS EASING OF OCCUPATION BURDENS.

On July 22 the Austrian Ambassadors in Washington, London, Paris and Moscow submitted a note from the Austrian Government proposing the establishment of a committee consisting of the Ambassadors of these Four Powers accredited in Vienna and of an Austrian representative to discuss alleviation of the occupation regime. As known, no agreement was reached at the Berlin Conference with respect to the Austrian State Treaty — under which liberated Austria was supposed to have been granted complete freedom since 1945 — because of the Soviet Union's demand that she be allowed to keep her troops in Austria. For this reason the Austrian Government, by means of the afore-mentioned note, is attempting to obtain liberation from the heavy burdens imposed on the country since 1945 by the continuing occupation.

Western Powers Accept Austrian Proposal for Setting Up Committee of Ambassadors

In reply to this note, the Governments of the United

(Continued on page 3)

RAAB SAYS THERE CAN BE NO EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT WITHOUT AUSTRIA.

In an interview with the International News Service (INS), Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab declared: "There is no connection between the submission by the Austrian Government of a note to the Big Four (see first item on left side of page 1) and the results of the Geneva Conference. Indeed, the Government had for weeks been giving detailed study to the problem mentioned in the note, with a view to submitting it during the second half of July. The demand for the establishment of a five-nation committee, on which an Austrian representative would have an equal position and vote with the other members, was inspired by the procedure at the Berlin Conference where, as is known, an Austrian delegation enjoying full rights likewise participated in the negotiations on the Austrian State Treaty. The presentation of these notes in no sense means that Austria is not interested in the early resumption of the State Treaty negotiations. On the contrary, the results of the Geneva Conference kindled our hopes that a new conference would be held in the near future, this time with European problems on the agenda. We are convinced that there can be no conference of this kind in which the Austrian issue does not occupy a prominent place in the list of problems to be discussed."

OFFICIAL U.S. VISIT BY AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHANCELLOR RAAB.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower has invited Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab to visit the United States as an official guest of the American Government. The period between November 21 and 27 has been proposed for the visit. The Chancellor has accepted the invitation and will leave for the United States at the time arranged.

FOREIGN-EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS GREATLY FACILITATED.

Effective August 16, 1954, the Austrian National Bank introduced a number of measures designed to facilitate foreign-exchange transactions. In the first place, until further notice, the National Bank will no longer call for gold. However, trade with gold will be reserved for those organizations entitled to carry on such trade. Similarly, it is no longer necessary to register claims for clearing within the framework of the European Payments Union (EPU), i.e. all claims in currencies of EPU member countries. Such foreign exchange need no longer be offered for sale to the National Bank but can remain in the possession of those entitled to have it. Assets in such currencies can be converted through the National Bank into other EPU foreign exchange and then be used freely for import purposes, to the extent that the merchandise in question is imported to Austria and originates in countries whose trade clearing is carried on within the EPU framework. In the same manner, EPU foreign exchange for such transactions will be freely allocated under the same conditions. Furthermore, a 500-schilling exemption has been established for payments of all kind. Foreign remittances up to this amount may be effected without special permission where EPU countries are involved.

Surplus in Payment Balance Makes These Relaxations Possible

In a review of the past six months, the Austrian National Bank reports that the most characteristic development has been the permanent surplus in Austria's balance of payments, which has been fully financed by the note-issuing institution. To the extent that, as a result of the surplus in the balance of payments, more foreign exchange has been turned in than actually required, not only have the reserves of such exchange increased but additional bank funds have also entered into circulation, thereby increasing the capital available to business. The fact that it was nevertheless possible to maintain financial stability can be explained in

terms of the considerable increase in savings activity accompanying the accumulation of large surpluses in the balance of payments, thereby tending to check the resultant inflationary trend. As a matter of fact, savings deposits increased from 5 billion schillings at the beginning of the year to 6½ billion at the end of the first six months of the year, i.e. an increase of 1½ billion.

AUSTRIA DRAWS NEW HOPE FROM GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. Commenting on the recent negotiations at Geneva, Austrian Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf declared that the agreement on Indo-China is the most significant event since the outbreak of the "cold war" and an important contribution to world peace. He said that the agreement concluded between the two major blocs justifies the hope that still further agreements will be reached. Admitting that the agreement on Indo-China means a partition of that country, the Chancellor expressed the hope that this would be the last agreement reached under such circumstances. Recalling that Austria, too, is awaiting settlement of her future status, he emphasized that in no part of the country was there any movement favoring a partition of Austria. "In view of this," he added, "we have even greater reason to be happy over the agreement reached."

Foreign Minister Leopold Figl made the following statement on the same subject: "From the very start, the negotiations at the Geneva Conference were followed with great interest in Austria. The agreement reached on the Indo-China question will certainly be welcomed throughout Austria. In view of the peculiar position of our country, I believe that we can all consider this agreement to be of especial interest. In this connection, I should not like to neglect mentioning how interested we in Austria are in the reduction of the prevailing tension in world politics. Since we ourselves are continually striving for the establishment of normal conditions, we welcome all indications of a reduction of tension and return to normalcy, wherever they may occur. However, I also believe that as a consequence of the Geneva agreement there is justification for renewed hope that settlements will at last be reached on other world political issues. Following their agreement on Indo-China at Geneva, I hope that the Big Powers will again find occasion to deal with the unsettled problems directly concerning Austria and thus achieve an Austrian settlement, unfortunately not reached at the Berlin Conference, thus sparing us the experience of being an occupied country on the tenth anniversary of the end of the war."

FLOOD DAMAGE VERY EXTENSIVE. It is still impossible to present exact figures on the extent of the damage caused in Austria by the recent floods. The following figures represent only a few examples and, where they relate to agricultural losses, are only rough estimates.

The estimated crop losses in the province of Lower Austria amount to 137 million schillings. No estimate is yet available for Upper Austria, but it is expected to be higher than that for Lower Austria. For Salzburg, the estimated figure is 6,265,000 schillings.

The damage to Austrian Federal highways is estimated at 8 million schillings.

The estimated damage to dams and other flood-protection installations along the Danube, March, Salzach and Inn rivers is 38.7 million schillings.

Damage to customs, gendarmerie, police and bridge installations is between 2 and 3 million schillings.

Estimates of damage to industrial property will not be available for several days. Among the plants affected are the following: (in Upper Austria) the Nitrogen Works and the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST), as well as wharf installations; (in Lower Austria) Hitiag; Austria-Takwerke A.G.; Rath, Vogl & Noot; Jessernig & Muth; Schoenbaumfeld; Wuester; Moraski; die Gutschermuehle; Sachseneder; Katzinger; Atzlauer; Schrotmuehle; Weissgerber; Glueck & Abraham; Metag; the Smiedhuetten at Krems; Bernhard Erndt; (in Salzburg) Leube Brothers; Portland Cement Works; First Salzburg Gypsum Company; Christian Moldan; Oesterreichische Bau A.G.; Hofbraeu Kaltenhausen; Ebensee Concrete Works, Inc.; (in Vienna) Garvanwerke; Alexander Friedmann; Rozhmuehler-Mewa; Bunzl & Biach; Austria-Emailwerke Simmering; Dipl. Ing. Wieser; Firma Ing. Lehr.

The Austrian Federal Railways

As a result of the washing out of bridges etc. in the wake of the floods, service between Melk and Ybbs on the Western line was completely interrupted. Since freight traffic on this line is normally very heavy, the interruption represented a particular hardship. After the floods subsided, it was necessary to bring in 1,000 carloads of filler material just to make this single stretch usable again.

Postal and Telegraphic Communications

Fifteen post offices, 2 postal garages and 2 emergency post stations were flooded.

Shipping

The floods resulted in the loss of or damage to numerous navigational aids and Danube ferries were badly damaged, as were also pontoons and bridges of the Danube Steamship Company.

Electric Power

At one of the concrete collection dams on the Danube Power Works construction project at Jochenstein, it became necessary to dynamite two small openings in order to permit the masses of flood water to flow off.

As a result of the flood, work at the Ybbs Persenbeug construction site of the Danube Power Works had to be halted and all available manpower used for emergency flood control work.

U.S. AND SOVIETS EASE GREY CARD REGULATIONS FOR AUSTRIA.

The U.S. and Soviet occupation authorities in Austria have eased grey card regulations for Americans in transit through the Russian Zone to Vienna. The new card, which is valid for three months, represents a substantial advantage to tourists since they can now enter by one route and leave by another, i.e. either via Enns or via the

Semmering. Grey cards for transit to the Soviet Occupation Zone are issued free to U.S. citizens by the Allied High Commission Office, State Department, Washington, D.C. No special form is required, but the applicant must supply his full name as it appears on his passport (or all names if passport is issued to more than one person), his passport number, together with date of issuance or renewal and date of expiration, and the approximate date of arrival and length of stay in Vienna. Travelers arriving by air need no grey card.

Occupation Burdens (Continued from page 1)

States, the United Kingdom, and the French Republic informed the Austrian Government that they are in agreement with the Austrian proposal for establishing such a committee to study the possibility of allowing Austria further relief from occupation restrictions. In their respective notes the three Governments all declare that their primary objective continues to be that of concluding a State Treaty so that Austria's complete freedom and sovereignty can at last be restored.

Moscow Rejects Discussion of Occupation Relief but Proposes Five-Nation Committee on State Treaty

Whereas the replies of the three Western Powers agreed to the Austrian proposal for a five-nation committee to discuss alleviation of the occupation, the note submitted by the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Moscow to the Austrian Ambassador on August 12 is opposed to this plan. The Russian note proposes a meeting of the Ambassadors of the Four Occupying Powers, with an Austrian representative

Four Occupying Powers, with an Austrian representative participating, to examine questions connected with the Austrian State Treaty draft which are as yet unsettled, as well as other issues connected with the conclusion of this Treaty. "The Soviet Union is of the opinion," the note declares, "that the establishment of a committee for the above-mentioned purpose (alleviation of the occupation - Ed.) cannot guarantee agreement on a State Treaty, the conclusion of which would solve all of the individual problems relating to an easing of Austria's present situation."

"A Second Berlin?"

This was the question asked by the organ of the Austrian People's party following publication of the Russian note. The "Neue Wiener Tageszeitung" declares in the same connection that the Soviets "do not appear to show any great willingness to ease the hardships imposed on the Austrian people by the occupation." "Arbeiter-Zeitung," the paper of the Socialist party, writes as follows: "What Moscow is now offering in place of the Austrian proposal is a repetition of Molotov's proposal at the Berlin Conference, i.e. for the four Ambassadors to continue the State Treaty negotiations in Vienna . . . Moscow's reply is nothing but a brusque refusal to ease the occupation."

NEGOTIATIONS WITH JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS POSTPONED UNTIL FALL. Official talks were held with representatives of international Jewish organizations this summer with a view to resolving various questions which had been left unsettled from the previous year. These conversations resulted in a certain amount of clarification of the issues but had to be interrupted until the fall because the measures discussed have to be submitted to Parliament, which does not convene until October. It is expected that by that time the suggestions of all other organizations of victims of political persecution will have been received and the financial considerations of other injured parties will have been determined.

In the aforementioned conversations, the Austrian representatives declared that the Government continues to adhere to the principle of non-discrimination between the victims of National-Socialist persecution living in Austria and those living abroad.

FIRST WORLD BANK LOAN TO AUSTRIA IS SIGNED: \$12 MILLION FOR POWER EXPANSION. On July 19, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development announced its decision to grant its first loan to Austria. The funds involved are to be European currencies, presumably Italian lire and Swiss francs, and are designed to help finance the Reisseck-Kreuzeck hydroelectric power project in Southern Austria. Construction of this project, which is designed to make more power available to Austrian industry and to enable Austria to increase her power exports to Italy, was begun in 1947 and is scheduled for completion by the end of 1958. The project represents an important phase in the exploitation of Austria's large hydroelectric potential. Austria's waterpower is one of Europe's major natural resources, which has yet to be developed in full.

According to the Bank's plan, about half of the loan will be paid out in Italian lire and the remainder in Swiss francs. Approximately 3,750 million lire will be provided from Italy's subscription to the capital of the Bank, while the balance of approximately 26 million Swiss francs will come from the proceeds from the sale of the Bank's bonds in Switzerland.

The borrowers to benefit from the loan are the Draukraftwerke (Drau River Power Company) and the Verbundgesellschaft (Austrian Electric Power Corporation), a Government-owned company and part of the national power network, which controls the operations of the Draukraftwerke. The Verbundgesellschaft system serves seven of Austria's nine provinces and the companies under its control supply about two-fifths of the publicly owned power consumed in Austria. The area served includes Vienna and most of Austria's industrial centers.

The total estimated cost for the Reisseck-Kreuzeck project is 898.7 million schillings (US\$34.5 million), of which the equivalent of \$9.8 million had been expended by the end of 1953. Of the funds required for completing the project, the equivalent of \$12 million will be supplied by the World Bank loan while the remaining \$12.7 million will come

partly from the funds of the Draukraftwerke and partly from contributions of the shareholders in the project (the Federal Government, the provinces of Carinthia, Styria and Lower Austria, and the city of Vienna).

The loan is for a term of 25 years, the interest rate being 4½ percent per annum, including the statutory 1 percent commission charged by the Bank. Amortization will begin on July 15, 1959. The loan is not only guaranteed by the Austrian Government but will also be secured by a mortgage on the Reisseck-Kreuzeck properties and by assignment to the Bank of the Verbundgesellschaft's rights to payments from the two Italian power companies which have contracted to buy power from the Verbundgesellschaft.

In signing the agreement establishing this power development loan, Austrian Ambassador Karl Gruber declared: "We believe that our resources in water power, when properly developed over the next decades, can make Austria the powerhouse of Western Europe. We hope that the present agreement on Reisseck-Kreuzeck will be a first step in that direction."

TRADE MINISTER ILLIG OPENS DORNBIRN FAIR. In the presence of numerous Austrian and foreign personalities, the 6th Dornbirn Export and Sample Fair along with the specialized Textile Fair was opened by Trade Minister Udo Illig. According to a statement made by President Rhomberg of the Fair, the number of firms exhibiting at the Fair rose from 969 last year to 1,093, this last figure reflecting an increase primarily in the number of foreign exhibitors (466 as against 352).

In his address, Minister Illig emphasized that immediately after taking office he had made direct subsidies and investment loans from his Ministry's funds available to Austrian fairs, including this Dornbirn Fair, in contrast to the previous policy of confining such aid to Austrian participation in foreign fairs. He explained this new policy in terms of his belief that these domestic fairs are an indispensable instrument of economic policy. The Minister then turned to the question of Austrian foreign trade, which he said had been burdened by heavy deficits ever since the collapse of the Monarchy in 1918 and down through 1952. In 1953, however, Austria's total trade deficit was only 72 million and, for the first time in the existence of the Austrian Republic, there was a surplus of 835 million schillings.

NEW UNDERSECRETARY IN TRADE MINISTRY. Dipl. Ing. Raimund Gehart, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction, resigned his office effective July 30 in order to return to private industry. Ministerial Counselor Rudolf Fischer has been appointed as his successor.

Dr. Fischer is 46 years old, a native of Vienna, studied law at the Vienna University and was active in court work from 1931 to 1933. He then worked in the Municipal Administration of the city of Graz until removed by the National Socialists in 1938. After the end of the war he entered the newly created Food Ministry, eventually becoming its administrative chief. When the Food Ministry was dissolved in

1949, and a limited number of its functions assigned to the Food Section in the Ministry of the Interior, Dr. Fischer was appointed Head of this Section.

Chancellor Raab sent Undersecretary Gehart a telegram expressing the Government's gratitude for his meritorious work.

UNDERSECRETARY FRITZ BOCK TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. In his capacity as President of the Austrian Expressway Corporation, Dr. Fritz Bock, Undersecretary of State for Public Works in the Austrian Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction, will arrive in New York on August 28 on an inspection tour of American turnpikes and throughways. By arrangement with the State Department, Dr. Bock will visit the New York Throughway Authority in Albany and will inspect selected construction projects in the vicinity. He will then be the guest of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority primarily to make a study of that organization's financial structure. After a three-day stay in Washington, where he will hold conversations on political matters with State Department officials and will meet with representatives of the Department of Commerce, he will leave for a five-day trip to the west Coast in order to study public works projects in Los Angeles and San Francisco. On his way back to Austria, Dr. Bock is scheduled to deliver an address in New York on September 10 on the subject of the reconstruction of the Vienna Opera House, in which he is playing a leading part.

Dr. Fritz Bock is 43 years old. The son of a postmaster, Dr. Bock graduated from Vienna University in 1935 with the degree of Doctor of Laws. From March 1938 to the end of 1939 he was a prisoner in the Dachau concentration camp. Active in the Catholic youth movement, he joined the Austrian People's Party in 1945 and became Secretary General of the Austrian League of Workers and Employees, a Catholic Trade Union Movement, board member of the Austrian National Bank. He was named Undersecretary of State in January 1952.

EXPANSION OF AUSTRIAN EXPORT PROMOTION. The Austrian Cabinet has approved and sent to Parliament a bill providing for an increase from 800 million to one billion schillings in the Federal liability fund for long-term exports. The bill provides that the Government shall assume liability for exports requiring long-term financing. The existing law providing for a lower interest rate will remain in force. Under the provisions of this law it has been possible to effect exports to underdeveloped countries like Israel, Yugoslavia and the lands of the Near and Middle East.

NEW LIBERALIZATION OF AUSTRIAN FOREIGN TRAVEL ALLOWANCES. The Austrian National Bank has increased the foreign travel allowance for Austrians travelling to foreign countries to 5,200 schillings per person per year. The quota for children has been raised to 2,600 schillings.

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AUSTRIA TO PARTICIPATE IN 12 FOREIGN FAIRS IN 1955. The Federal Chamber of Commerce has decided to have Austria participate officially in 12 foreign fairs during the first half of 1955. According to available information, Austria is expected to be represented at the following: the Frankfurt and Hannover Fairs; the Munich Handicrafts Fair; the Brussels, Utrecht, Milan and Paris International Fairs; the Verona Agricultural Fair; the Toronto and Karachi Fairs; the Beyrouth and Barcelona International Fairs and the Addis Ababa Fair.

TRANSOCEANIC TELEPHONE INTRODUCED IN AUSTRIA.

According to an announcement of the Socialist News Service, the postal administration in Upper Austria will start operating the first Austrian transoceanic telephone transmitter during August. The 20-kilowatt station will transmit all telephone conversations to North America by radio via New York.

Up until six months ago all telephone communications between Austria and the American Continent were carried by transmitters of German, British and Swiss telephone companies, a service for which Austria had to pay with valuable foreign exchange. Following the relaxation of Allied regulations in the field of telecommunications, a temporary transoceanic telephone service was initiated January 1, 1954, over one of the Army transmitters made available by the Americans. This transmitter is now to be replaced by a powerful, modern installation.

31,000 MUNICIPAL APARTMENTS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN VIENNA BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

In a speech on July 30 at the last meeting of the Vienna Municipal Council - whose members are up for reelection on October 17, 1954 - Mayor Franz Jonas reported on the enormous progress made in all areas of municipal administration since the end of the war. With respect to the City's housing construction activity, the Mayor declared: "As of the end of 1949 the City of Vienna had constructed 1,472 apartments. In today's review, I am in a position to report that by the end of 1954 this figure will have risen to more than 31,000. By this time more than 2 billion schillings will have been expended for government housing during the present election period." After reporting that, in addition to the newly constructed housing, no fewer than 6,000 war-damaged municipal apartments had been rebuilt and that as of the end of June an additional 11,765 new apartments were under construction, the Mayor continued: "I promise the people of Vienna that the City Administration will continue its housing construction activities in the years to come. We are justified in hoping that Vienna will be freed from the scourge of housing shortages within the foreseeable future. I believe that the achievements since 1949, the tangible evidence of which is in plain view, constitute an impressive commentary on the Administration of the retiring Municipal Council which has been characterized by the cooperation of the two major parties (the Austrian People's party and the Socialist party - Ed.) who represent 85% of the Viennese population."

THERAPEUTIC RADIUM TUNNELS AT GASTEIN EXPANDED INTO MODERN HEALTH RESORT. The tunnels in an abandoned mine near Bad Gastein which contain fairly large radium deposits whose curative effect has already been tested have now been made available for a large-scale health station. A health spa including 96 dressing rooms, 7 rest rooms, 2 massage rooms, bathing facilities and a research laboratory has been built over the tunnels. The building is equipped with a small railway station from which patients are transported to the deep tunnels as they lie on flat cars. The temperature in the tunnels is 42° C. and the radium radiation is fairly strong. A course of treatments in the tunnels is useful in curing chronic inflammatory forms of articular rheumatism, muscle and nerve inflammations, gout, vascular disorders and sequels of infantile paralysis. In the case of many diseases, the curative value of treatment making use of the tunnels is considerably superior to that of the most modern radiation methods. Until now, treatment in the tunnels has been carried out on an improvised basis but henceforth it will be under medical supervision and use of the most modern equipment.

THREE ALPINE TRAINING SCHOOLS IN AUSTRIA. The Austrian Alps offer opportunities for all types of outings, ranging from easy walking on low slopes to extremely difficult mountain climbing. Experienced guides, licensed by the Government, are available at all starting points for such tours or can be hired through the local tourist clubs. There are also three specialized training centers for climbing and skiing: the High Alps School at Innsbruck, the Mountain Climbers' School at Heiligenblut and the Gargellen Mountain Climbers' School in Montafon (Vorarlberg). These schools, depending on their location and on local weather conditions, conduct summer skiing courses, ski outings, group excursions, guided tours, climbers' courses and alpine training courses. Maximum duration of any course is one week. Training and excursion areas involved are: Grossglockner, Wiesbachhorn, Stubai Alps, Oetztales Alps, Wilder Kaiser, Raetikon and Silvretta.

FOREIGN SECRETARY ANTHONY EDEN IN VIENNA. The British Foreign Secretary and Mrs. Eden arrived in Vienna from London on August 17 in a BEA plane. Present at Schwechat airport to greet the visitors were the British Ambassador and Lady Wallinger, accompanied by several officials of the British Mission and two officials of the Austrian Foreign Office. Envoy Friedinger-Pranter, Chief of Protocol at the Austrian Foreign Office, presented Mrs. Eden with a bouquet of flowers in the name of Foreign Minister Figl and wished her a pleasant vacation in Austria. Foreign Secretary Eden and his wife then proceeded by car to Carinthia for a stay of several weeks.

DOLFUSS MURDER COMMEMORATED. On July 25, 1954, a memorial service was held in Vienna in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the murder of Austrian Chancellor Engelbert Dolfuss by National-Socialist assassins. Among those attending the special Church service conducted by

Prelate Fried were Chancellor Raab, Foreign Minister Figl, President of Parliament Hurdes, Undersecretary Bock and others. In a commemorative address, Parliamentary Deputy Polcar declared, in part: "The most serious criticism made against Dr. Dollfuss by many, even during his lifetime, was that he had abandoned the principle of democracy and had led Austria toward the authoritarianism of a one-party State. This factor would seem to represent a wide divergence between him and us, too, as we are unreservedly dedicated to democracy as the most satisfactory principle of political organization in human relationships. However, we must remember that armed party forces were lined up against each other in the Austria of those days and that latent civil war more than once flared up into open rebellion."

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF AUSTRIAN CHILDREN ARRANGE SPEEDY AID FOR AUSTRIAN FLOOD VICTIMS. According to cabled reports reaching the American Friends of Austrian Children, Inc., 202 East 19th Street, New York 3, N.Y., the food shipments made available to Austrian flood victims by this organization through its Vienna representatives were the first relief shipments to reach the disaster area.

In addition to this spontaneous aid, the same organization shipped, on July 28, approximately 210,000 lbs. of creamery butter donated to Austria by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is expected that this special relief shipment will arrive within the next few days.

Dr. Karl Gruber, Austrian Ambassador in Washington, has expressed appreciation for this generous assistance in a letter addressed to Mr. John Gorski, Executive Director of the organization.

STATE LOANS FOR AUSTRIAN FILM PRODUCERS. In order to put the Austrian film industry, which has been in a difficult situation for years due to its lack of capital, on a sound financial basis and to enable it to compete in the international market, the Film Section of the Trade Union of Employees in the Free Professions has been carrying on extensive studies and has submitted a number of proposals. According to its findings, a Government loan in the amount of approximately 20 million schillings is necessary to put the industry on a firm basis. These funds would be channeled to producers through a central film organization and be paid back to this organization in accordance with a fixed amortization plan. This process would continue until such time as the Austrian film industry was in a position to finance itself.

All European countries producing films of outstanding quality, such as England, Germany, France and Italy, have already established such institutions with state funds. Motion picture circles in Austria are of the opinion that the Austrian Government must follow this example so that Austria, whose artistic ability in this sphere, too, is being recognized throughout the world, can win a prominent place in the film field.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS IN VIENNA. The first world conference of university professors is to be held in Vienna from September 9 to 14. This International Association of University Professors and Lecturers has a membership of more than 200,000 university professors in 40 countries and has its permanent headquarters in London. It is considered the chief representative of all university professors and, as an affiliate of UNESCO, it also enjoys a recognized international status. The Austrian Section of the organization, which is represented both in the Administrative Council and in the Executive Committee of the Central International Office in London, was assigned the task of organizing the 8th Conference in Vienna. Chairman of the meeting will be the international President of the organization, Professor Vito of Italy. The official languages at the plenary meetings will be French and English, while Italian, Spanish and German will also be used in the committees. The principal themes for discussion at the Vienna meeting will be the following: "Scientific research in the universities and collaboration with industry," "Student admission to universities and grants for living expenses," "Appointment requirements and exchange opportunities for university professors" and "The best methods of cooperation in the universities and in the field of science as a whole." The meeting will be officially opened in the main hall of the University on September 9. Following the meetings and the sessions reserved for reports and discussion, there is also provision for a number of receptions, theatre parties etc., e.g. a tea party given by the Austrian Chancellor, a reception by the Minister of Education and a dinner by the Mayor of Vienna. The Conference members are also to be the guests of the Industrialists' Association, the United Nations' League and the Federal Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN STUDENTS AT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Total enrolment in Austrian institutions of higher education (including the Salzburg department of theology) for the scholastic year 1953/54 was 20,011 (4,149, or 21% of this number were women). More than half of these students were enrolled in Austrian universities and almost one third at the University of Vienna alone. Of the 3,229 foreign students in Austria (representing 16% of the total), more than one third studied at the University of Innsbruck. Three quarters of the foreign students came from European countries, most of them from East and West Germany, Norway, United States, Greece and Italy. The following is a breakdown of the foreign student enrolment: University of Innsbruck 1,236 (38%), Graz Institute of Technology 483 (15%), University of Vienna 473 (15%), University of Graz 229 (7%), Vienna Academy of Music and Dramatic Art 195 (6%), Institute of Mining and Engineering in Leoben 183 (6%), Vienna Institute of Technology 124 (4%), Salzburg Mozarteum 86 (3%), Vienna College of Commerce 53 (1%).

Department of Technology at Salzburg 45 (1%), Vienna Academy for Applied Arts and Handicrafts 41 (1%), Vienna Academy of Fine Arts (1%), Vienna Institute for Veterinary Medicine 28 (1%), and the Vienna College for Agriculture and Forestry 21 (1%).

AUSTRIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN LONDON.

Following the recent establishment of an Austrian Cultural Institute in Paris, a similar organization will be set up in London to start operations some time next year. The director of the new institute will probably be named in the late fall of 1954 and, in his capacity as cultural attache of the Austrian Embassy in London, he will have the task of setting up the Austrian Cultural Institute.

The official gazette has issued an announcement inviting applicants for this position to submit their qualifications. The requirements for this position are: a university degree in an appropriate field, complete command of the English language, extensive knowledge of the cultural situation of both Austria and Britain and the ability to organize cultural programs on his own initiative.

THE VIENNA CHAMBER OPERA - A TRAINING CENTER FOR YOUNG AUSTRIAN SINGERS.

"The Vienna Chamber Opera," established in August with the aid of subsidies from the City of Vienna, is planning to give a number of opera performances for the many tourists visiting the Austrian capital. These will be presented under the musical direction of Hans Gabors and will feature talented young singers. The Vienna Konzerthaus Society and the Josefstaedter Theater are lending active support to this newcomer in the artistic life of the city. If the first three operas scheduled - Rossini's comic opera "Il Signor Bruschino," Mozart's "Schauspieldirektor" and Weber's "Abu Hassan" - are a success, the Vienna Chamber Opera will become a permanent institution in which young singers are presented to the public and new composers can try out their works. In this way, the hope has also been expressed that it will be possible to dissuade promising young artists from emigrating, and, at the same time, to establish in the musical field an experimental workshop with functions similar to those of Vienna's experimental theaters in the field of drama.

The performances of the Vienna Chamber Opera will take place in the Mozart hall of the Konzerthaus, which is being specially adapted for the purpose.

The young artists, talented graduates of the national and municipal musical institutions, are not accepting any compensation for the first opera performance and, likewise, the Konzerthaus Society is not charging any rent for the hall on this occasion in order that the entire proceeds may be made available for flood relief.

TV PERFORMANCE BY VIENNA BURGTHEATER. The German "Nordwestdeutsche Rundfunk" system recently devoted five telecasts to a performance of Nestroy's "Der Faerber und sein Zwillingbruder" (The Dyer and his Twin Brother) as performed by Vienna's Burgtheater company.

ENGLAND IMPORTS VIENNESE OPERETTAS. The Schroeder-Taubmann concert agency is leaving in mid-August for a tour of England with an ensemble of sixty who will perform the three operettas "Wiener Blut" (Vienna Blood), "Die Lustige Witwe" (The Merry Widow), and the "Czardasfuerstin" (The Czardas Princess).

Under the direction of Wolf Kabitzky, the ensemble will first make a three-week appearance at the Stoll Theatre in London and then go on tour through the major English cities. The orchestra and the conductor will be English while Wilhelm Schoenherr and Paul Walter will be the Viennese concertmasters. In order to make the action more comprehensible to the non-German-speaking audiences, the dialogue has been cut in favor of the musical numbers. Furthermore C. W. Fernbach will act as a kind of master of ceremonies and explain the action in English. The cast will consist of prominent soloists: Vienna State Opera tenors Karl Friedrich and Karl Terkal have been engaged for the male roles; the female leads will be taken by Christine von Widmann of Berlin and Eleonore Bauer of Graz. Direction, sets and costumes will also be in the hands of leading artists.

Although the engagement was fixed for a four-month period the English impresario has found so much interest throughout England for the Viennese operettas that he is already negotiating for an extension of the tour.

MOZART CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE MEETING AT SALZBURG.

The Mozart Central Research Institute, established by the "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, held a meeting at the "Mozarteum" from August 14 to 17. One of the aims of the Institute is to publish a complete edition of Mozart's works. The following Mozart scholars were scheduled to take part in the discussions: Wilhelm Fischer, Robert Hass, Alfred Orel, Karl Pfannhauser, Roland Tenschert, Wilhelm Jerger (Lucerne), Ernst Fritz Schmied (Augsburg), Rudolf Steglich (Erlangen) and Erich Valentin (Munich).

NEWS FROM AUSTRIAN FILM STUDIOS. Ernst Marischka is planning a new color film entitled "Maedchenjahre einer Koenigin" (A Queen's Young Years) with Romy Albach-Schneider in the title role, supported by Magda Schneider and Karl Ludwig Diehl.

The novelist Rudolf Brunngraber and film director Leopold Lindtberg are collaborating on the book for "Sarajevo," a film on the world situation before and immediately after the assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince, Franz Ferdinand, at Sarajevo in 1914. This film, which is to be directed by Lindtberg, will be a joint production of "Wiener Mundus-Film" (Vienna), "Real-Film" (Hamburg) and a Yugoslav company.

Eduard von Borsody is producing a film, "Maxie," in which the lead is to be taken by little Sabine Eggerth. Other members of the cast are Cornel Borchers and Willy Fritsch (Ring-Film, Vienna).

A color film version of Anzengruber's "Der Pfarrer von Kirchfeld" (The Pastor of Kirchfeld) is planned by "Donau-Film" (Vienna), which previously made a film based on the same author's "Das vierte Gebot" ("The Fourth Commandment").

Axel von Ambesser was due to start shooting the film version of Karl Costa's "Bruder Martin" (Brother Martin) late in July. Paul Hoerbiger will play the title role.

EXHIBITIONS IN AUSTRIAN MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES.

The opening in mid-July of the "Austrian Gallery of the 19th and 20th Centuries" in the Upper Belvedere marks the completion of that institution's "Austrian Gallery." The Museum of Medieval Art and the Austrian Baroque Museum, both located in the Lower Belvedere, have now been opened to the public. These developments mean that the Belvedere Museum now affords the visitor a general survey of the development of Austrian painting and plastic art from its medieval beginnings down to modern times.

At the end of June, a special exhibition on "Peasant Art of the Old World" was opened at the Museum of Ethnology. Displaying numerous original peasant tools from Asia, Africa and Europe, the exhibition shows the development of farm tools, agricultural methods and related customs and habits.

From August 13 to September 12, 1954, the Artists' Union of the Vienna Sezession Gallery will hold an exhibition of works by the Sezession Gallery in Darmstadt, Germany. The German painters and sculptors will be represented by a series of 100 oil paintings, 100 drawings and a number of large and small sculptural works. A return exhibition of the Vienna Sezession is scheduled for Darmstadt in the spring of 1955.

Another exhibition to be held at the Sezession is one on modern Christian art, from October 16 through November 14, 1954. Besides works of Austrian origin, this exhibition will feature paintings and other works of art by Georges Rouault and Henri Matisse (France), Salvador Dali (Spain), Lukas Gilden (Switzerland), Dominikus Boehm and Rudolf Schwarz (Germany).

The "Ver Sacrum" Hall of the Sezession Gallery is presently housing a collection of works by the Austrian artist Hans Boehler, the winner of this year's City of Vienna Award for Painting and Illustration.

Still another Sezession exhibit, which opened early in July, features paintings and water colors by the Linz artist Egon Hoffman.

The Wuerthle Gallery recently opened an exhibition of works by the Austrian artist Georg Merkel, presently residing in Paris.

The "Neue Galerie" is featuring an exhibition of works by members of the modernistic Vienna group known as "Der Kreis." Previews of the event make special mention of works by Ferdinand Stransky, Ernst Hoeffinger, Hans Stockbauer, Ernst Paar and Arnulf Neuwirth. The abstract school is represented by Hilde Sapper and E.E. Mueller.

The cultural department of the City of Vienna has opened an exhibition entitled "The Vienna Experimental Theater since 1945," presenting a survey of the accomplishments of these small theaters in an effort to awaken wider public interest in their activities.

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